NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE **MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**	**HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:** **Pocatello, Idaho** **REPORT FOR:** **MONTH: May YEAR: 2005**
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	**SIGNATURE** William Wojcik (HFP) for Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist **DATE:** June 8, 2005
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Record and above-normal precipitation and flooding rivers bring about a first in years since Eastern Idaho's drought began in 2000.

Little Wood River

Little Wood River Reservoir releases in addition to heavy precipitation in the Central Mountains near Carey, Idaho resulted in the Little Wood River to rise above flood stage between May 16 and 21.

Normal May precipitation for Hailey, Idaho, the nearest coop station, is 1.49 inches. From May 1 to May 16, 3.58 inches fell and an additional 1.36 inches fell through May 19. The monthly total for Hailey was 5.02 inches, 337% of normal. Precipitation amounts that fell on May 16 on already saturated soils in the area ranged from 0.33 to 1.50 inches (Hailey received 1.39 inches on May 16) triggered the Little Wood River to rise. Continued precipitation and releases endured throughout the week. The Little Wood River near Carey, WODI1, reached a crest of 7.43 feet, 1.43 feet above flood stage, on May 21.

Damage was limited to water in the lower level of one home, a small side road bridge washed out and a minor washout on a state highway bridge, which was repaired quickly using riprap. Actual monetary damage has not been reported. No injuries or deaths occurred.

Big Wood River

The Big Wood River rose above flood stage, yet for less than a day as abundant precipitation from thunderstorms moved through the area. The Big Wood River at Hailey, HALI1, briefly rose to 6.08 feet, 0.08 feet above flood stage, on May 20 and then quickly receded below flood stage.

Note normal precipitation comments above as they also reflect the situation on the Big Wood River at Hailey.

No damage, injuries or deaths reported.

Cassia County Flash Flooding

Cassia County in Southern Central Idaho experienced flash flooding after severe thunderstorms poured rain on saturated soils in less than three hours. Spotter reports indicated from one to two inches fell in a three-hour period. The nearest coop and SNOTEL stations do not support this; however, as they were downstream of the heaviest rains that eventually made their way to Albion and Oakley, Idaho where the flash flooding took place.

The Oakley coop station reported 3.60 inches from May 1 to May 16, thoroughly saturating soils. The May 16 storms reported 0.71 inches at Oakley and 0.60 inches at the Howell Canyon SNOTEL. Oakley's total May precipitation was 5.91 inches, 383.8% of normal.

Damage, focused in the towns of Albion and Oakley, consisted of the following.
Albion:

- The city of Albion and Cassia County have been declared as state disaster areas.
- 3 county road bridges/culverts were washed out
- Washed out bridges/culverts cut off access to 6 homes
- Approximately a foot of water was flowing across a state highway, but no damage to road
- Damage to other county roads
- 8 to 11 homes in Albion reported basement and/or bedroom and kitchen flooding\
- Extent of water damage unknown at this time

Oakley

- Birch Creek diversion canal that bypasses Oakley and returns to Lower Goose Creek Reservoir (Oakley Dam) was main concern - Diversion concern was that it was weakening - but did not breach.
- Water was flowing over diversion, thus diversion was full
- Full diversion required sandbagging of an area called Warm Springs
- Water flowing over numerous roads, no damage
- 1 home had basement flooding

Estimated monetary damage is $130,000. No injuries or deaths.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

May precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 170.4% of normal for 39 of 43 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Of the reporting stations, all received above normal precipitation, 21 of which were greater than 200%. Those stations receiving 300% or greater than normal precipitation are in the table below.

Station Name	**Precip (inches)**	**Normal (inches)**	**Percent of Normal**
Burley 2 S	5.06	1.22	414.8
Burley ASOS	4.92	1.22	403.28
Oakley	5.91	1.54	383.8
Paul	4.74	1.25	379.2
Minidoka Dam	4.06	1.11	365.8
Ketchum Ranger Station	5.70	1.79	318.4
Mackay Ranger Station	3.18	1.06	300.0

Numerous records were broken during the month. A summary follows.

Station	New Record (inches)	Old Record (inches)	Date or Year
Burley ASOS *	4.92	4.35	1998
Burley ASOS	0.51	0.45	5/6/1995
	1.10	0.69	5/11/1963
	1.20	0.82	5/16/1996
Burley 2S *	5.06	4.35	1998
Challis	0.31	0.18	5/5/1942
Driggs *	3.83	3.76	1987
Ketchum *	5.70	5.46	1998
Minidoka *	4.06	3.45	1980
Oakley *	5.91	3.77	1957
Paul *	4.74	4.64	1998
Pocatello Airport	1.10	0.80	5/16/1996
Stanley	0.37	0.30	5/5/2000
	0.56	0.24	5/20/1991

* May monthly total precipitation record

Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 81% of capacity[1], up 15% from May 11, 2005.

Reservoir	% Capacity April 30 [2]	% Capacity May 31 [3]	Percent Change	% of Average[3]	% of Last Year[3]
American Falls	88	94	6	106	152
Bear Lake	17	24	7	32	152
Blackfoot	20	33	13	39	189
Henry's Lake	80	87	7	89	103
Island Park	83	99	16	100	98
Little Wood	96	98	2	107	109
Mackay	61	102	41	130	350
Magic	29	71	42	89	294
Oakley	33	55	22	92	200
Palisades	61	83	22	112	316
Ririe	58	72	14	83	127
Lake Walcott	23[4]	98[5]	75	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), June 1, 2005; (2) NRCS, April 30, 2005; (3) NRCS, May 31, 2005; (4) BOR, May 11, 2005; (5) BOR, June 1, 2005.

Drought

Currently eighteen Idaho county emergency drought declarations exist for 2005, twelve of which are in Eastern Idaho. Eastern Idaho counties include, in order of declaration, Butte, Custer, Bonneville, Bingham, Madison, Fremont, Power, Bannock, Clark, Caribou, Blaine and Jefferson.

May precipitation allowed for US Drought Monitor improvements to D1, "Moderate", D2, "Severe", and D3, "Extreme" categories. This is a stark contrast to recent years when most of Eastern Idaho was ranked as D3 and D4, "Exceptional". Anticipation of further improvements looms as precipitation continues into June, SWSI values improve and June 1 Water Supply Forecasts also reveal improvements.

Hydrologic Product Summary

May 2005 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	1
Flash Flood Statement	2
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	4
Flood Statement	9
Flood Watch for Flooding	2
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Hydrologic Outlook	4
Hydrologic Statement	2
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	5

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